



November 12, 2014

MEMO TO: Michigan House of Representatives Criminal Justice Committee

FROM: James Grant, M.D., President, Michigan State Medical Society

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 596

---

On behalf of 15,000 physician members of the Michigan State Medical Society, I wish to express our strong support for Senate Bill 596. We firmly believe that this piece of legislation is vital to the overall efforts of combating human trafficking in the state of Michigan.

By establishing the Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board Act, this will provide a concrete framework of coordination between the Michigan Department of Community Health and our health care providers. This Advisory Board will have a tremendous and positive impact on ensuring that the collection of information is properly disseminated in the effort to provide the highest quality of care, assistance, and services for victims of human trafficking. Moreover, this Advisory Board will focus on continuing to provide increased awareness of medical and mental health services available for survivors.

We thank Senator Robertson for working with the physician community on this essential piece of legislation; and, commend the Michigan Legislature on already passing strong anti-human trafficking legislation to protect our citizens. Nevertheless, work remains to be done and Senate Bill 596 will allow us to take those additional steps to address the medical and mental health care needs of these victims.

The physician members of the Michigan State Medical Society would appreciate your support on Senate Bill 596.